

**REMARKS**

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

By the foregoing amendment, claim 1 has been amended. Claims 5-10 and 14-17 have been previously withdrawn. Thus, claims 1-4 and 11-13 are currently pending in the application and subject to examination.

Entry of this Amendment is proper under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 since this Amendment: (a) places the application in condition for allowance for reasons discussed herein; (b) does not raise any new issue regarding further search and/or consideration since the Amendment amplifies issues previously discussed throughout prosecution; (c) does not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally-rejected claims; and (d) places the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The Amendment is necessary because it is made in reply to arguments raised in the rejection. Entry of the Amendment is thus respectfully requested.

In the Office Action mailed December 27, 2006, claims 1-3, 11 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of U.S. Patent No. 6,426,583 to Onishi et al. (hereinafter "Onishi"), U.S. patent No. 5,731,584 to Beyne et al. (hereinafter "Beyne"), and U.S. Patent No. 4,426,595 to Kawaura et al. (hereinafter "Kawaura"). Claim 12 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Onishi, Kawaura and Beyne, as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,292,143 to Romanofsky. It is noted that claim 1 has been

amended. To the extent that the rejections remain applicable to the claims currently pending, the Applicants hereby traverse the rejections, as follows.

In the Applicants' invention, as recited in amended claim 1, a method of fabricating a surface acoustic wave device includes the steps of: (a) joining a supporting substrate to a second surface of a piezoelectric substrate opposite to a first surface; (b) grinding and polishing the first surface of the piezoelectric substrate; (c) forming, on the first surface of the piezoelectric substrate, an on-chip pattern including comb-shaped electrodes and electrode pads; and (d) grinding and polishing a third surface of the supporting substrate opposite to another surface of the supporting substrate to which the second surface of the piezoelectric substrate is joined, after forming the on-chip pattern on the first surface of the piezoelectric substrate.

None of the applied art of record discloses or suggests at least the features of forming, on the first surface of the piezoelectric substrate, an on-chip pattern including comb-shaped electrodes and electrode pads; and grinding and polishing a third surface of the supporting substrate opposite to another surface of the supporting substrate to which the second surface of the piezoelectric substrate is joined, after forming the on-chip pattern on the first surface of the piezoelectric substrate, as recited in claim 1, as amended.

For at least this reason, the Applicants submit that independent claim 1 is allowable over the applied art of record. As claim 1 is allowable, the Applicants submit that claims 2-4 and 11-13, which depend from allowable claim 1, are likewise allowable for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 1.

**Conclusion**

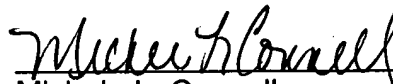
For all of the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-4 and 11-13 are in condition for allowance and a Notice of Allowability is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner determine that any further action is necessary to place this application into better form, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicants hereby petition for an appropriate extension of time. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 01-2300 referencing client matter number 025720-00027.

Respectfully submitted,

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